

# SWOSU Serving as Host of Prestigious Summer Science Camp

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University will be one of 30 locations across the nation for an ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp planned July 13-24 on the Weatherford campus.

This is the fourth year that SWOSU has hosted the camp. Approximately 60 middle schoolers from Oklahoma and Texas will attend the camp, which is the only one in Oklahoma. Theme this year is "The Search for Life."

The residential camp gives students a first-hand experience with experiments, role models and innovative programs to encourage their continued participation in math and science courses in school. Additionally, their leadership potential and citizenship skills are fostered along with their abilities to work in teams and think creatively, while spending two weeks in a college campus environment. The ultimate goal is to raise their awareness of career possibilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"SWOSU is excited to be part of this wonderful camp experience for students," said Wayne Trail, camp director. "We're not only providing these students with an amazing two weeks on our campus, we are also doing our part to develop the next generation of creative thinkers and inventors."

Unlike most summer camps, there is no fee required to attend the [ExxonMobil](#) Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp. Young people who are academically qualified, recommended by their teachers and genuinely interested in math and science can be rewarded with the opportunity to attend these educational camps at no cost.

Students will attend daily classes in natural science, engineering, mathematics and technology, which will be taught by faculty from SWOSU and area school districts. Activities include classroom study, experiments, individual/team/group projects, weekly field excursions and guest speakers who motivate the students into fulfilling their dreams.

Repeated studies have shown that the United States faces a critical shortage of engineers, scientists and other mathematics- and science-literate workers, as a significant number of practicing engineers are nearing retirement and not enough students are pursuing related degrees. Through numerous efforts, ExxonMobil is supporting programs and organizations that focus on improving mathematics and science education at all levels.

## **About ExxonMobil Foundation**

ExxonMobil Foundation is the primary philanthropic arm of the Exxon Mobil Corporation in the United States. The Foundation and the Corporation engage in a range of philanthropic activities that advance education, health and science in the communities where ExxonMobil has significant operations. In the United States, ExxonMobil supports initiatives to improve math and science education at the K-12 and higher education levels.

Globally, ExxonMobil provides funding to improve basic education and combat malaria and other infectious diseases in developing countries. In 2008, together with its employees and retirees, Exxon Mobil Corporation, its divisions and affiliates, and ExxonMobil Foundation provided \$225 million in contributions worldwide, of which more than \$89 million was dedicated to education. Additional information on ExxonMobil's community partnerships and contributions programs is available at [www.exxonmobil.com/community](http://www.exxonmobil.com/community).

### **About The Harris Foundation**

Founded in 1998, The Harris Foundation is a 501 (c) (3), non-profit organization based in Houston, Texas, whose overall mission is to invest in community-based initiatives to support education, health and wealth. The foundation supports programs that empower individuals, in particular minorities and economically and/or socially disadvantaged, to recognize their potential and pursue their dreams.

The Education Mission of the Harris Foundation is to enable youth to develop and achieve their full potential through the support of social, recreational, and educational programs for grades K-12. Through three primary initiatives- The DREAM Tour, the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp and Dare to Dream-the foundation encourages math and science education, motivates youth to stay in school, fosters youth leadership and citizenship, as well as instills the values of responsibility, fairness and respect.

The Harris Foundation believes that students can be prepared now for the careers of the future through a structured education program and the use of positive role models.

To date, more than 10,000 K-12 students have participated and benefited from THF programs. [www.theharrisfoundation.org](http://www.theharrisfoundation.org)